

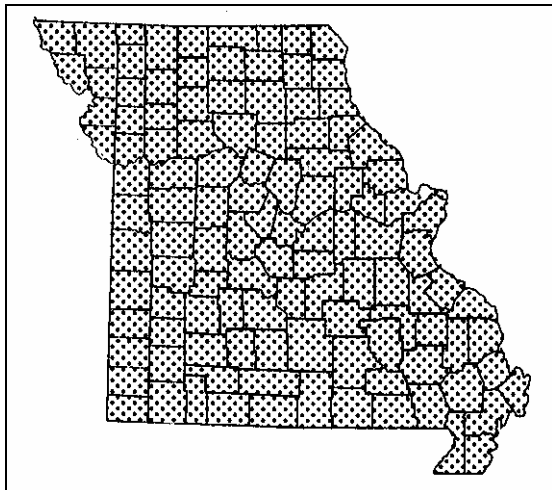
## American Elm

*Ulmus americana* L.

American elm is our best known shade tree and grows throughout the state. It is also called white elm, soft elm and water elm. American elm grows on a variety of sites, but attains its best growth in bottomlands where it is associated with silver and red maple, boxelder, cottonwood, bur oak and hackberry. It is one of our largest native species when growing on a good site. The tree is subject to serious tree diseases and defoliating insects.

The sapwood is generally creamy white and the heartwood a pale brown to dark brown. The bark is gray, deeply furrowed with broad ridges and thin scales. Although of medium density, elm wood is strong and tough for its weight, elastic and shock resistant. The wood is ring porous and has an interlocked grain which makes it very difficult to split. It has excellent bending qualities and is somewhat coarse in texture. The wood finishes well and is easy to stain, but is not durable. Annual growth rings are clearly defined.

American elm is widely used as veneer for some fine furniture and wall paneling. Other uses include the slack cooperage industry for staves, heading and hoops, the manufacture of baskets, bent parts for furniture and general farm use. It is commonly used in wooden pallets, boxes and crates and sporting goods. Some inexpensive firearms have elm stocks. For specific uses, it can be a desirable species in home workshop use, but it is not a versatile wood.



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